F.S.I. boats

603. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fishery Survey of India is operating boats to study the availability of marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

(b) if so, how many such boats are operating;

(c) what are the annual fixed and variable costs of operating and maintaining such boats;

(d) whether any cost benefit study has been done of the activities of the Fishery Survey of India; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the policies and utility of diverse objectives of the F.S.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fishery Survey of India operates 13 vessels to study the availability of marine living resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) The annual fixed and variable costs for operating and maintaining the boats are Rs. 11 crores and Rs. 19 crores respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The activities of Fishery Survey of India are reviewed periodically by the Evaluation Committees constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Presently, an Evaluation Committee with members from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Coast Guard, Association of Indian Fisheries Industries, Planning Commission, Directorate General of Shipping and Integrated Finance Division in the Ministry has reviewed the policies and utility of diverse objectives of Fishery Survey of India.

Problems faced by chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh

604. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry the problems being faced by chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh due to non-getting of remunerative price for chilly;

(b) if so, whether it has also come to the notice of his Ministry that in a matter of 45 days the price has fallen down from Rs. 7,500 per quintal to Rs. 4,500 per quintal; and

(c) what steps his Ministry is taking to help the chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh and how it is planning to buy chillies from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Model prices of chillies during 2007-08 are higher than that during